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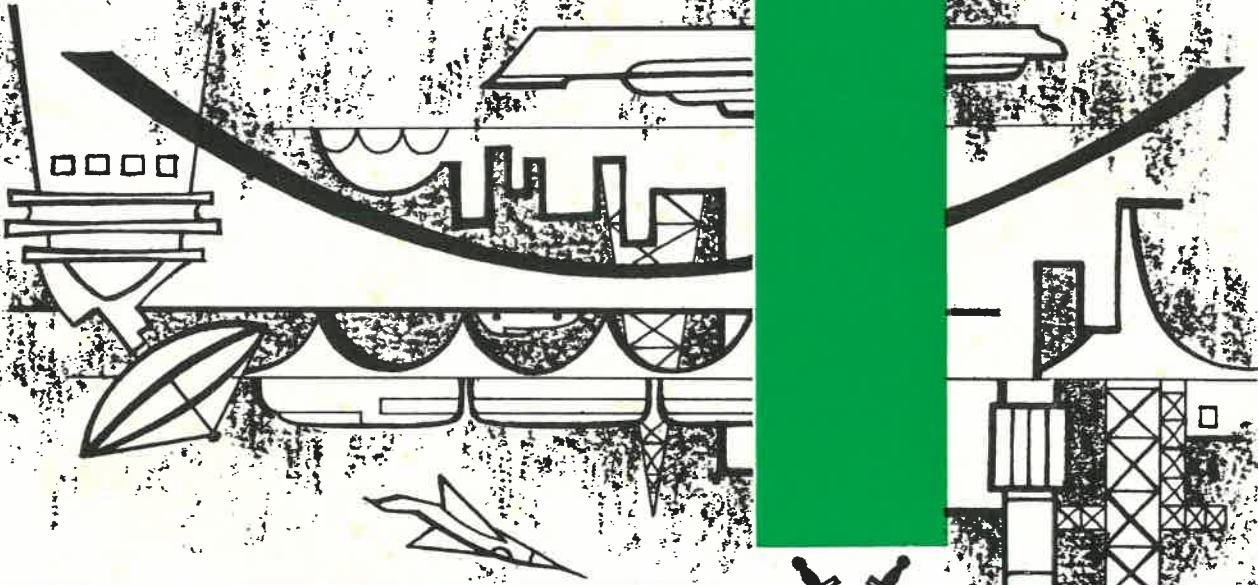
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Christ came to free us from "mammon" and all that it stands for. He knew we need "inner freedom," and we have to face facts in order to have

### Facing Truth

The whole Bible story seems centred around "freedom." This was evidently what Adam wanted in Eden. It was certainly what captive Israel in Egypt wanted. Mark you, when they got it and were "free" out in the desert they moaned like mad and complained about the hardships and wanted to get back to slavery once more (Ex. 16.3 etc.). This is an experience we have again and again.

The Gospel for today is eventually very blunt. The "prodigal son" (Luke 15. 11 to end) ran away to obtain "freedom"; but lost not only his money, but self-respect and freedom. So he decided to go home, "make me as one of thy hired servants." (v. 19). Actually the loving father feasted him: but obviously if he stayed at home, responsibilities greater than ever in his boyhood "free" days, would have been inevitable. **So we are informed very clearly that we cannot have absolute liberty.**" Man has the choice between two masters—God, or what the Bible calls "mammon," i.e. worldliness, avarice. (Matt. 6. 24).

### Man's Choice

lation so often using violence in revolts, may in fact be demonstrating that they have not yet learned very deeply or very well: or perhaps this indicates an essential missing element in our educational system. The Government is at present worried because students choose the social services rather than science (a strange reflection in itself in this so-called "scientific" and "technological" age), so they propose to supply the missing link by compulsory "Maths" up to a certain age. But the prevalence of "lawlessness" either means a deficiency in the "law" or a misunderstanding of "freedom"—either of which is a larger missing link than "Maths."

*(This article is the second of a series originally printed in the English Church Army's magazine, "Spearhead," and is gratefully acknowledged).*

This is a great emancipating message, so great that even creation itself can eventually share it with us. "The bondage of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8.21). Daring, you say? Yes, very: but the Gospel for today is both revolutionary and daring. That's why so many men run away from it; we are always (like Egypt of old) afraid to let others have their freedom, but, like Israel in the desert, even more afraid to have our own.

We only have liberty then when we are in communion with God—recognizing his rule—(2 Cor. 3. 17—"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"). What is more, man unaided will fall again, and so the work of the Holy Spirit is to lead us into all the truth (John 16. 13).

The Gospel story also makes it clear that man unaided does not find God: actually, if man allows it, God always finds him (see for example John 15. 16). Christ had to enter Mammon's stronghold in order to rescue mankind: that is what the Cross is all about. Man is set free from the overwhelming power of selfishness (mammon) and is freed for service.

### Freedom Regained

And what is the truth? Christ declared himself to be the very personification of it (John 14. 6). He came to demonstrate the way to god. He came to show us the truth—that God has made man for Himself. **So it is in finding God, that a man finds his true self, and thus experiences freedom.** One of our prayers makes this clear when, speaking about God, it says "Whose service is perfect freedom."

I am quite sure of immediate results in certain directions, for instance, I believe our sense of unity and purpose as a Society was greatly strengthened and this must have its influence upon us for good. Also it emphasized to many of us, especially the younger officers, the need for continued and regular study and particularly for the obtaining of specialist qualifications and skills. This seems essential if

Perhaps the results of such a conference as ours can be likened in a sense to an ice-berg of which only about one eighth appears above the surface. The larger portion is hidden from immediate view and will be only gradually revealed.

Now the acid test will be over the next two years between now and our next conference, to see if we really learnt anything from all that was presented to us and from our discussions.

From the 26th to the 30th January we held our Staff Conference and the speakers certainly presented us with some invaluable material from the wealth of their experience and learning. For this we were most grateful. As all the Conference sessions were recorded on tape, eventually a complete Conference Report will be available to refresh our memories in the days to come.

When a conference or seminar is held, no matter how good the speakers or stimulating the discussion, there is always the possibility that a short time after the event is over, there will be no tangible results to be seen. The greatest danger is that what has been said and discussed so earnestly will have been forgotten.

Prayer seems to be the right note on which to finish and so I draw your attention to the list of Officers on page eleven. This is supplied so that you may pray for us in our various work situations. The list is kept up to date and you will notice that there have been quite a number of new appointments recorded since the last issue of the magazine. We look confidently to the future in our Lord's service and the more so because we know there are many fellow-christians upholding us continually in their prayers.

One of the very encouraging things which came from our discussions was a desire for a closer fellowship together in prayer. This may seem difficult to achieve when we are scattered in our work throughout the country. However the need for this was so strongly felt that it was decided, that in addition to our normal pattern of prayer for each other and our work, a monthly prayer list would be produced. This will comprise the praise and prayer requests of Officers as they make them known. Another encouragement was that an Officer immediately offered to produce this monthly prayer list and distribute it to all Officers.

As we look to the future from the experience of our recent Conference, we see more clearly the need for a re-appraisal of our training programme, of the recruitment of personnel and the pattern of the Society's work. All these important matters will occupy the thinking and prayers of our Board and our Officers in the months ahead.

We are to make the best possible contribution in the life and witness of our Church.

## EDITORIAL



The Rev. M. C. Harcourt-Norton, formerly with the Australian Council of Churches, ably presented us with the present position of the Church in relation to the world and how it endeavours to fulfil Christ's commands. The Rev. R. Fowler, a Child Welfare Chaplain, told us of his work and challenged us deeply with the needs of young people who are committed to Training Centres.

The challenge thrown before us, both as a Society and as individuals was to meet man's basic spiritual and human needs in presenting the Gospel, the Good News of Christ's love and forgiveness, as the unique and marvellous solution to a world grown weary of war, racial hatred and the "rat race" of living, often bewildered and unable to cope with the problems and tensions of life. Jesus Christ is the answer.

Throughout the Conference our Federal Secretary shared with us his vision and plans for the future of our Society, while other Officers also spoke of their work and experiences, and all this added to the wonderful family spirit experienced by us during our time together. The Rev. L. J. Harris shared daily with us in a study of the warfare and armour of the Christian, while individual Officers led the times of Prayer and Praise each evening.

As with all family reunions, fellowship and humour played their natural part, and were experienced in laughter around the meal table, afternoon walks and talks.

Conference—wonderful memories of challenge, devotion and fellowship to enrich us and enable us to continue as Christ's faithful soldiers and servants within the service of the Church Army.

A Staff Conference may seem to many a time of hard work, deciding on strategies, discussing problems, trying to find answers to questions and

sharing different points of view. If you think this way you would be right and I know that our Church Army Conference was all of this and a lot more. To me it was also a time of renewal, refreshment, fellowship and friendship.

The Conference theme "STRATEGY FOR THE 70's" was aptly chosen as we face the challenges of life in the 70's. The speakers who came to us set the scene, provoking much thought and questions in the minds of all of us. They brought us to a new awareness of the situation of the world, politically, economically, socially, and challenged us all to renewed faith in Him whom we seek to serve. The sessions, together with the discussion times, brought us to realise how important it is to seek knowledge and understanding of the problems that our Church is facing, in seeking for, and dealing with, those for whom Christ died.

The sharing of experiences between one another whilst in session and while talking informally was of tremendous value, in that we all were made freshly aware of each other's situations and needs. I am pleased that a monthly prayer sheet will go out to all Officers giving special prayer points so that we can pray for one another more intelligently. The Communion Services each morning were a real blessing and brought us around our Lord's Table as a family to be renewed spiritually.

I came away from the Conference realising the great need for further training in special fields. It was good to hear that those who are responsible for directing the Church Army and for the training of Officers, are well aware of the need for specialist qualifications and that plans are now being made in this direction. I thank God that I am privileged to serve Him and to bring the Good News of his love to those whom I'm sent to serve.

## ADMITTED AND COMMISSIONED :

**CHAPLAIN TO THE QUEEN :**

Last year we were delighted to learn that the Chief Secretary of the Church Army in England, the Rev. Prebendary D. M. Lynch, had been appointed a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen. It is true to say that the world wide work of the Church Army has been honoured by the appointment.

Although it is too early to announce any details we are looking forward to a visit by Prebendary Lynch for about the first two weeks of February, 1971. He plans to visit the Church Army in Eastern Africa and then come on to visit the Societies here and in New Zealand.



It is a great occasion for an Army when it is strengthened for battle by the addition of trained and equipped soldiers. This was so for the Church Army when on Sunday the 25th January, at the service of Evening Prayer in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, the Primate admitted to the Office of Evangelist, Michael Tobin and Les Fennance. The next day at a special service in the Training College Chapel the Federal Secretary Commissioned them as Officers of the Church Army. Then followed the Staff Conference after which they went to their first appointments—Captain Fennance to serve on the staff of the Whalan/Tregeear New Housing Area and Captain Tobin to St. Luke's, Junee.

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**NEEDS :**

As a voluntary Society we naturally have many needs. The notice below emphasises one of the greatest. But there are also material needs which some of our supporters may feel able to supply. For instance, the Training College is in need of a considerable amount of equipment which we can only obtain gradually as funds become available. To mention just two items, we are greatly in need of new supplies of Bed Linen and general Household Linen. If any of our friends would like to send us their Tea Coupons these could be exchanged for household goods. Some people kindly send us Used Stamps and we are glad to receive any quantities, large or small, as they can be sold and so help our funds.